

## OBITUARY

### THOMAS DRAPER CAMPBELL (1894-1967)

Born at Millicent in the South-east of South Australia Campbell received his early education at Prince Alfred College and undertook tertiary study at the University of Adelaide where he graduated in dental surgery in 1921 continuing these studies to receive a doctorate in 1923. His doctoral thesis was published by the University in 1925 under the title "*Dentition and Palate of the Australian Aboriginal*" and has been widely acclaimed as a pioneer work in this field.

Soon after graduation Campbell entered the Dental Department of the Royal Adelaide Hospital as the first Dental House Surgeon, and in 1926 was appointed Superintendent. He was elected Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry in 1938, and appointed to the full-time University position of Director of Dental Studies in 1949. He became the first Professor of Dentistry in 1954 and upon retirement four years later was made Professor Emeritus.

During his professional career Prof. Campbell received high recognition for his work. In 1948 he was made F.D.S.R.C.S. (London); in 1950, F.D.S.R.C.S. (Edinburgh); in 1952 he was elected an Honorary Member of the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, and in 1966 a Fellow of the Australian College of Dental Surgeons.

At all times Professor Campbell combined his dental studies with a keen interest in anthropology. In December 1926 he was associated with the formation of the Board for Anthropological Research, University of Adelaide, and has played a leading role in its research activities. As organiser and leader of many expeditions to Central Australia in the 1920's and 30's he was responsible for the collection of a large amount of important data and material on many aspects of the traditional life of the aboriginal. Stone technology fascinated him and he spent countless hours searching for and making a detailed study of aboriginal stone implements. He contributed important papers to the literature on this subject. Well known as an accomplished amateur film producer, Professor Campbell made a series of colour-sound movies on aspects of aboriginal technology for the Board. He was chairman of the Board at the time of his death.

He became a member of this Society in 1922 and spent ten years on the Council, holding the office of President in 1934-35. Following appointment to the Board of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery in 1932, he became a foundation member of the Museum Board in 1939, a position which he held until his death. In addition to being a Fellow of the Australian Research Council, Foundation Member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies and a Life Member of the Anthropological Society of South Australia, Professor Campbell was an honorary member of the Anthropology Staff of the South Australian Museum from 1923 until his death.

He was well known as a keen debater and will be remembered for his participation in many lively discussions at Royal Society meetings. A member of this Society with an outstanding international reputation, he died at his home at Tasmore on 8th December, 1967.

Robert Edwards.